



Forests and Fish Report

AT WORK – ON THE GROUND

Keith W. Wood

Goal of the Federal Assurances Project

Gaining federal assurances from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fisheries branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure that landowners who comply with Washington State's forest practices rules will also meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. As a result, the citizens of Washington State and the United States will gain a vigorous, functioning environment that supports clean streams, healthy salmon runs and productive forests.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

For More Information on the
**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Federal Assurances Project**

P.O. Box 47011, Olympia, WA 98504-7011

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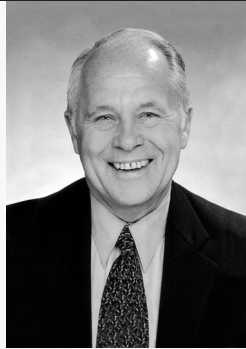
Website: www.wa.gov/dnr

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Protecting Washington State's Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality

A Message from Doug Sutherland, Washington State's Commissioner of Public Lands

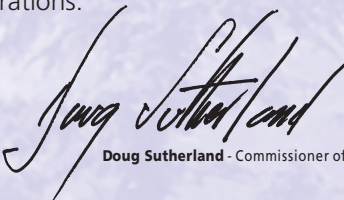
Wild salmon and clean water are important to us in the Pacific Northwest. Their protection benefits the citizens of Washington State, and ensures that future generations will have opportunities to enjoy them. Washington residents count on their forests as a source of clean water, wildlife habitat, and a place to recreate. Jobs and our economy also rely on the timber products produced by thousands of workers from more than 10 million acres of non-federal forestland.

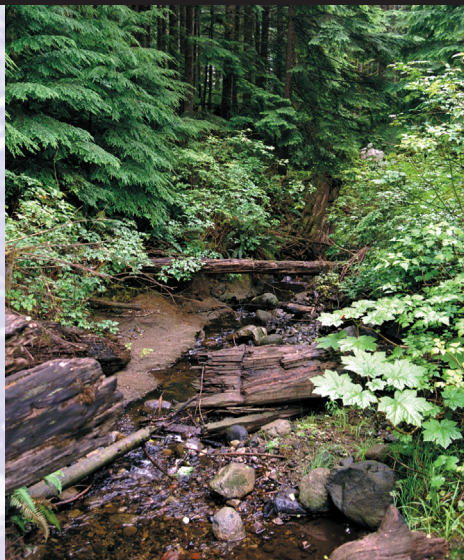
Since 1997, several species of Pacific salmon were listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. A growing number of streams were also listed as polluted under the federal Clean Water Act. In response, stakeholder groups, including federal agencies, state agencies, treaty tribes, counties, and small and large private forest landowners, jointly produced a science-based plan for protecting water quality and fish habitat covering non-federal forestland in Washington State.

The plan, known as the Forests and Fish Report, was signed into state law in 1999. As a result, new forest practices rules, effective in 2001, were designed to improve water quality and habitat for aquatic species, including native salmon, and for maintaining viable and responsible forestry in Washington.

The Department of Natural Resources is now actively engaged in a collaborative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fisheries branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to obtain assurances that these ground breaking rules comply with the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. The process of securing federal assurances requires action, support, funding, and continued collaboration.

Our state is in a unique position to help make state and federal laws work together to achieve public resource protection while maintaining economic viability. A successful partnership can help preserve healthy forests and clean streams for our wild salmon and other aquatic species, provide jobs, and secure the sustainable and responsible management of our forests, now and for future generations.


Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands



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